



June 15, 2022

The Honorable Sherry Dorsey Walker
Chair
House Sunset Committee (Policy Analysis & Government Accountability)
Delaware General Assembly
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

RE: SB 272

Dear Representative Dorsey Walker:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support SB 272, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 570 ASHA members reside in Delaware.¹

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses to practice due to administrative burdens. These burdens hinder their ability to provide quality services and restrict consumer access in underserved and rural communities. I am pleased to support SB 272, which will address these issues by:

- increasing access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- facilitating continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another state, specifically with members of the military and their spouses.

Passage of this bill would allow Delaware to enjoy the same benefits of the 22 other ASLP-IC member states, including the neighboring state of Maryland. The United States Department of Defense and the Delaware Speech-Language-Hearing Association join ASHA in supporting SB 272.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL
2022 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Delaware* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/advocacy/state-fliers/delaware-state-flyer.pdf>.